

LECTURE 6

THE UK



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PLAN

- The British Monarchy today
- The British Parliament and the Electoral System
- The House of Commons
- The House of Lords
- Political Parties
- The Conservative Party
- The Liberal Party and the Labour Party



THE BRITISH MONARCHY

- Constitutional monarchy
- Decolonisation – 1947 (India, Pakistan and Ceylon)
- 1949 – Commonwealth (Ireland, Burma, the Sudan, Canada, Australia, New Zealand)
- The House of Commons and the House of Lords



THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT

THE ELECTORAL SYSTEM

- Members of Parliament - MPs
- At a general election or at a by-election
- Parliamentary elections – 5 years
- The Cabinet of Ministers
- Shadow Cabinet



THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

- 650 members
- The Speaker
- Front-benchers
- Back-benchers



THE HOUSE OF LORDS

- 1000 members
- 250 are active in the work of the House
- The right of inheritance
- The Lord Chancellor
- The Woolsack
- 700 years



POLITICAL PARTIES

- 17TH century
- The Conservative and Liberal – 19th century
- The Social Democratic Party 1981, an alliance with the Liberal Party
- The Scottish National, Welsh Nationalist
- The Communist Party of Britain



THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY

- The Tory Party
- Tory means an Irish highwayman
- The middle and upper classes



THE LIBERAL PARTY

THE LABOUR PARTY

- Liberals=Whigs, Whig party
- Represented the trading and manufacturing classes
- 1988 – liberal democrats
- Labour Party – 1900, by Trade Unions
- 1981 – the Social Democratic Party



QUESTIONS

- Is the Queen of the UK also the Queen of some other countries?
- What are the powers of the monarch in the UK?
- Who does the real power in the UK belong to?
- What do the letters MP stand for?
- What is the minimum voting age in the UK?
- Who chooses candidates in elections in the UK?
- Who chooses the Cabinet of Ministers?
- Who are called Front-benchers and Back-benchers?
- How long does a session of the House of Commons last?
- What is a reading in Parliament?
- What is the Woolsack?
- Which political parties in the UK can you name?
- Who are called the Tories and the Whigs?

